

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were presented and examined. Claims 1-8 are rejected. In response, no claims are amended, added or cancelled. Claim 2 was previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-13 remain in the application. In response to the above-noted Office Action, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of record is requested in view of the following.

In the Action, in order to meet the further limitation added to the claims in response to the prior Office Action of “wherein the displaced display screen and the faceplate define a concave surface facing the user, whereby the confidentiality of a displayed card hand is ensured,” the Examiner adds U.S. Patent No. 5,877,829 issued to Okamoto (“Okamoto”) to the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,719,631 issued to Tulley (“Tulley”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,702,305 issued to Norman (“Norman”) to support the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103.

The major point made by the Examiner in support of this rejection is that Okamoto allegedly discloses a LCD with a concave surface.

However Applicants have studied Okamoto and in particular the paragraph in col. 10, lines 50-60. However this paragraph discloses that the LCD device may include optical elements formed by a series of concave or convex substrate portions such as microlenses.

However, concave or convex substrate portions does not mean at all that the display itself has a general concave or convex shape (in this regard it is noted that all embodiments of the LCD device of Okamoto are shown as being flat), but quite differently means that there are tiny optical lenses (one per pixel, i.e. "microlenses") which individually may be concave or convex. This has absolutely no relationship with the general shape of the display.

Therefore, the teachings of Okamoto cannot contribute to making the invention obvious.

Quite to the contrary, the skilled person, when considering Okamoto, would merely have the idea of using it as a flat panel with a narrow viewing angle so as to preserve the confidentiality of the player's cards hand in that manner.

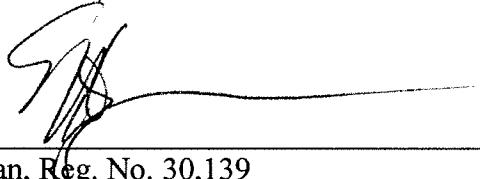
This is not what the invention does.

An advantage of the present invention is that different luminescent technologies can be used (provided that concave shapes are permitted), while the use of Okamoto implies the use of LCDs with narrow viewing angle.

In this connection, the undersigned desires to arrange an interview with the Examiner in order to discuss the claims in view of the foregoing argument.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

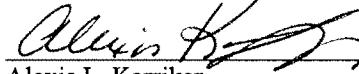


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